

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01202 261746Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 A-01 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05 OPR-02 IO-13

MCT-01 USSS-00 AID-05 /089 W

-----261753Z 059552 /56

R 261410Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9984

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1202

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PINS, PINT, BC

SUBJECT: BOTSWANA-LIBERATION GROUP RELATIONS

REF: GABORONE 1040

1. DURING MEETING WITH SPECIAL BRANCH HEAD D.T. MOPHUTING, EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN INVESTIGATION OF FRANCISTOWN HAND GRENADE EXPLOSION ON MAY 6 (SEE REFTEL). MOPHUTING SAID THERE WAS NO BREAKTHROUGH YET. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE DEED, WHICH RESULTED IN THE WOUNDING OF 80 AND THE DEATHS OF 2, COULD BE NECESSARILY ATTRIBUTED TO "SMITH'S AGENTS". AFTER ALL, BOTSWANA WAS ALSO HAVING PROBLEMS WITH THE VARIOUS LIBERATION GROUPS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE NKOMO FACTION OF THE ANC HAD ASKED THE GOB FOR PERMISSION TO HELP PATROL THE BOTSWANA/RHODESIA BORDER. THEREFORE, MOPHUTING DID NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE NKOMO PEOPLE HAD THROWN THE GRENADE TO INCRIMINATE THE SMITH REGIME SO THAT THE GOB WOULD BE PRESSURED INTO ACCEPT-
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ING THE ASSISTANCE OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS ON THE BORDER. THE NKOMO GROUP HAD EVEN INSISTED THAT THE GOB RETURN TO IT THE ARMS TAKEN FROM CAPTURED GUERRILLAS, NOT ONLY IN ZAMBIA, WHICH IS THE PRACTICE, BUT IN BOTSWANA. OF COURSE, SAID MOPHUTING, THE GOB REFUSED ALL THE NKOMO REQUESTS BECAUSE IT HAD NO GUARANTEE THAT ARMED FREEDOM FIGHTERS WOULD NOT TURN AGAINST BOTSWANA.

2. MOPHUTING SAID THAT THE GOB WAS UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE AGAINST RHODESIA NOT ONLY FROM THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS BUT FROM THE OTHER FRONT LINE STATES AS WELL. THEREFORE, THE NEW BOTSWANA DEFENSE FORCE WAS A NECESSITY TO HELP THE COUNTRY DEFEND ITSELF FROM BOTH INSIDE AND OUT.
NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS, EXPLOSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GABORO01202
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2360092
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOTSWANA-LIBERATION GROUP RELATIONS
TAGS: PINR, PINS, PINT, BC, RH, (NKOMO, JOSHUA)
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Type: TE
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